
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2018 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED PACIFIC COD FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding the Southeast Alaska directed Pacific cod fishery. The directed Pacific cod season is open from January 1 through December 31, 2018, unless closed by Emergency Order at an earlier date.

Legal Gear

Pacific cod may be taken in the directed Pacific cod fishery only by longline, dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, mechanical jigging machines, and pots. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit for the directed Pacific cod fishery is the Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish permit (M card) and it is issued specific to a gear type.

Closed Waters (Figure 1)

In the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, the following areas are closed to directed fishing for Pacific cod: the waters of Glacier Bay north of a line from Point Carolus at 58°22.694' N. latitude, 136°02.535' W. longitude to Point Gustavus at 58°22.748' N. latitude, 135°54.927' W. longitude, and the waters of Dundas Bay north and west of a line from 58°22.900' N. latitude, 136°25.300' W. longitude to 58°23.600' N. latitude, 136°24.600' W. longitude. For additional information contact Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve at (907) 697-2230.

Guideline Harvest Range

The annual guideline harvest range for the taking of Pacific cod in the NSEI and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts combined is 750,000 – 1,250,000 pounds round weight [5 AAC 28.160 (f)].

The department will monitor the catch of Pacific cod by geographic area to prevent localized depletion and overharvest of spawning aggregations. The department will continue to manage this resource as it has in the past, closing specific areas as necessary to distribute effort and harvest throughout NSEI and SSEI. Management decisions will be based on a seasonal harvest period of July 1 through June 30 to avoid overharvest of Pacific cod during winter spawning aggregations.

The directed Pacific cod fishery in state waters on the outer coast is managed in conjunction with the federal fishery, which takes place in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) (3–200 nm offshore). For information on the federal Pacific cod fishery, contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division of NOAA Fisheries at (800) 304-4846 (#3) or (907) 586-7228.

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for State Waters Directed Pacific Cod Longline and Jig Fisheries:

Percentage indicates the amount that may be sold and is based on the round weight of Pacific cod on board. Longline and jig bycatch allowances are the same unless otherwise noted.

BYCATCH SPECIES	INTERNAL WATERS NSEI and SSEI	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS 0-3 MILES
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10%. Full retention required.	10%. Full retention required.
Silvergray Rockfish	20%. Full retention required.	Aggregated with "Other Rockfish"
Shortraker, Rougheye and Thornyhead Rockfish	20% in aggregate. Full retention for SR and RE.	
Black, Blue and Dark Rockfish	Aggregated with "Other Rockfish". Full retention required.	5% in aggregate. Full retention required black rockfish only.
Other Rockfish	20% in aggregate. Full retention required all rockfish.	5% in aggregate, includes thornyhead.
Lingcod ¹	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 35%. Bycatch permitted until GHl taken.	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 35%. Bycatch permitted until GHl taken.
	<u>Jig fishery</u> - 20% SSEOC. Mechanical jig and hand troll gear only. May 16- Nov 30 or until GHl taken. 0%, NSEI & SSEIW.	<u>Jig fishery</u> - 20% CSEO & SSEOC. Mechanical jig and hand troll gear only. May 16- Nov 30 or until GHl taken. 0%, IBS, EYKT & NSEO.
Spiny Dogfish	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 35%. <u>Jig fishery</u> - 20%.	<u>Longline fishery</u> - 35%. <u>Jig fishery</u> - 20%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.	0%, no retention.
Skates	Aggregated with "Other Groundfish".	5%.
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.	20% in aggregate.

¹The minimum size limit for lingcod is 27" from tip of snout to tip of tail or 20.5" from front of the dorsal fin to tip of tail. Lingcod Management Areas include NSEI, Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) and Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sectors, Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), and the East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) and Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Sections (5 AAC 28.105).

Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for State Waters Directed Pacific Cod Pot Fishery:

BYCATCH SPECIES	INTERNAL WATERS NSEI and SSEI	STATE OUTSIDE WATERS 0-3 MILES
Thornyhead	5%.	5%.
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) and Black Rockfish	0%. Full retention required.	0%. Full retention required.
Other Rockfish	0%. Full retention required.	0%.
Lingcod	0%, no retention.	0%, no retention.
Spiny Dogfish	20%.	20%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.	0%, no retention.
Skates	Aggregated with "Other Groundfish".	5%.
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.	20% in aggregate.

General Provisions

A CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish in the NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts must retain, weigh, and report on fish tickets all rockfish taken [5 AAC 28.171]. Full retention is not required for thornyheads. Full retention and reporting of DSR and black rockfish from state waters (0-3 miles) on the outer coast of the Southeast District is required. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish. All proceeds from the sale of rockfish taken in excess of legal bycatch limits shall be forfeited to the State of Alaska. A permit holder may retain excess full-retention rockfish bycatch for personal use; however, the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

A CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall retain the maximum retainable bycatch (20%) of pollock when the directed fishery for pollock is closed [5 AAC 28.070 (e)(2)]. There is not a directed pollock fishery in NSEI or SSEI therefore the directed pollock fishery is closed.

Logbooks are required for this fishery and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket at the time of that landing (5 AAC 28.175). For each set, fishermen are required to report on logbooks the date, latitude and longitude (degrees and decimal minutes) for start and end positions of each set, hook spacing, amount of gear (skates and hooks), depth of each set, and estimated catch per set by species. Logbooks are available at ADF&G area offices.

Vessels operating as catcher-sellers and delivering Pacific cod on the grounds as bait shall complete a fish ticket documenting the sale at the time of each transaction. Fish tickets shall be assigned and attached to the appropriate logbook page(s) documenting the effort and harvest for that delivery. If the harvest documented on a logbook page involves multiple delivery transactions, the partial delivery box on each fish ticket shall be completed and fishermen shall list the pre-printed fish ticket numbers on the corresponding logbook page(s). A disposition code of "61" (sold for bait) and the appropriate delivery code shall be documented on each fish ticket.

Fishermen are advised that Pacific cod area closures may occur on short notice. Closure notices will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report, and National Weather Service broadcast. Updates of area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at (907) 747-4882.

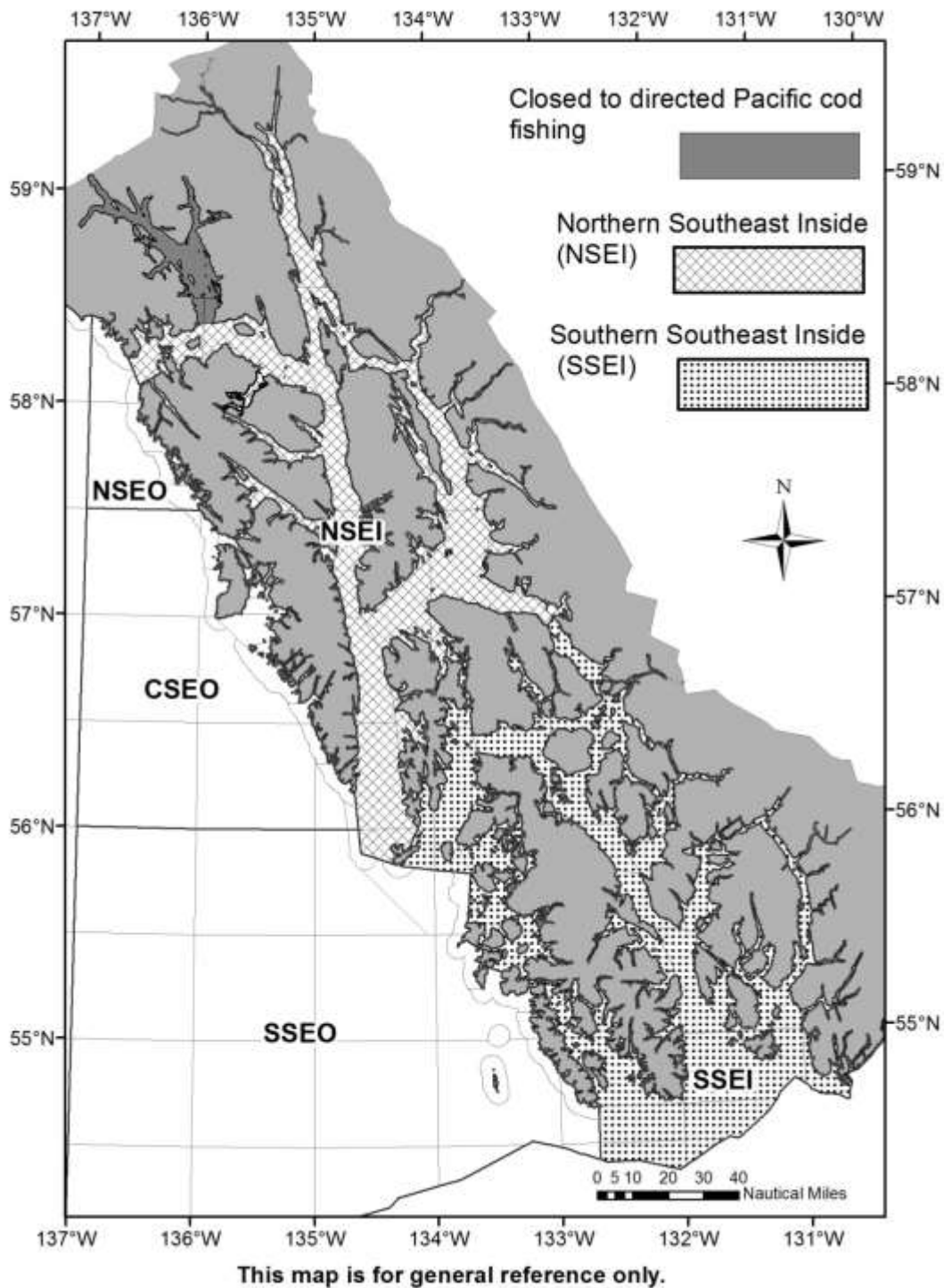


Figure 1. NSEI and SSEI Subdistricts including waters closed to directed Pacific cod fishing. For detailed descriptions of Management Area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 28.105.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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